



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

36 BRENNAN STREET • WATSONVILLE, CA 95076

TEL: (831) 722-9292 • FAX: (831) 722-3139

email: info@pvwma.dst.ca.us • <http://www.pvwma.dst.ca.us>

October 23, 2003

Paul Dabbs
Statewide Planning Branch
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Subject: California Water Plan Update 2003 (Bulletin 160-03)

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) has reviewed the draft "California Water Plan Update 2003, an Investment Guide for California's Water Future" (Bulletin 160-03). We appreciate your efforts in this mammoth undertaking and offer the following comments.

In terms of regional coverage in Bulletin 160-03, we would prefer to see more discussion devoted to the Central and Southern Coastal areas, especially the Pajaro Valley. First, in your discussion beginning on p. 3-3 regarding the future of California agriculture, it should be pointed out that coastal agriculture has a return per acre (and per acre-foot of water applied) that is an order of magnitude greater than the Central Valley and most other parts of California. Second, the "Central Coast Hydrologic Region" section beginning at p. 4-33 includes only cursory discussion of the threat to this enormously productive area from seawater intrusion. And third, PVWMA's progress in implementing its \$150 million Basin Management Plan is referenced only obliquely and somewhat inaccurately. This integrated water supply plan includes many of the recommendations of Bulletin 160-03, including regional cooperation and coordination, conjunctive use, wastewater reuse, water transfers, development of local supplies, and aggressive water conservation.

In terms of state policy, we continue to hold the opinion that major effort needs to be devoted both to development of new water supplies and to efficient use of existing supplies. Further, we observe that the trend toward passage of local ordinances designed to block inter-regional water transfers is not helpful in facilitating efficient statewide water use. We encourage your department, while recognizing legitimate local concerns, to take a strong position in favor an open and vibrant water market.

Paul Dabbs
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We appreciate this opportunity to comment on Bulletin 160-03. Please advise me if we can clarify or expand on our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles McNiesh". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Charles" and last name "McNiesh" clearly legible.

Charles McNiesh
General Manager

cc: Mary Bannister, PVWMA Technical Division Manager and CWP Update Public
Advisory Committee Member

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